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17 August 1953

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MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. [REDACTED] Assistant to the Director
SUBJECT: PSB Staff Meeting, 17 August.

1. It was indicated that the regular meeting of the Board scheduled for this week will be postponed; [REDACTED] will communicate with the members.

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2. Items on the agenda for the next meeting are as follows:

a. Revision of the [REDACTED] paper, which has been returned to the PSB by NSC. Comments on this paper prepared by the JCS and CIA will be distributed to Board members before the meeting. CIA will probably be asked to designate a member of a working group to attend a PSB Staff meeting on Southeast Asia.

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b. A request from Mr. Robert Cutler for a status report on the Board subject of escapees and defectors. Related to this are:

(1) NSC 86/1 on policy.

(2) Items 18 and 19 of the Jackson Committee Report, dealing with problems of legislation.

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[REDACTED] observed that the Board might decline to accept this assignment, or might ask for an extension of the proposed report date of 24 December. He will send a memorandum summarizing the problem to Board members.

c. The CIA timetable relating to NSC 867, on the problem of deteriorating US prestige abroad. [REDACTED] pointed out that the initial deadline for this report was mid-September, and that our survey should be examined by the PSB in advance of that date. OCI is working on this, and will be requested to report progress to you.

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d. Other items which are expected to come up for discussion are:

(1) Problem with respect to the unemployed in West

Berlin,

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Berlin, currently under review by the State Department and FOA.

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(3) The desirability of offering more substantial relief to the Greek Islands. It was reported that the Navy has handled this very capably on a crash basis, and that the American Red Cross, and other voluntary agencies are prepared to offer medical supplies and aid with respect to possible epidemics. The question arises as to whether the Communists might not make the propaganda charge that the supply of food to East Germany indicates a selective and political policy on the part of the United States. Consideration is being given allocating surplus agricultural products to the affected area, under the President's authorization.

4. A review of the PSB paper D-45 (Interim US Psychological Plan for Exploitation of Unrest in Satellite Europe) [redacted] weekly progress reports on the inter-departmental panel concerned with this paper have been submitted to DCI by Mr. [redacted]

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[redacted]
Chief
Psychological Warfare Division
Political & Psychological Staff

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